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August 16, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 171 – July 2021
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) - CERCLA
Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On July 6, EPA and CPG Representatives met briefly via MS Teams to review and flow conditions for the week of July 5.
- On July 12, EPA and CPG Representatives met briefly via MS Teams to review and flow conditions for the week of July 12.
- On July 13, EPA and CPG Representatives met briefly via MS Teams to prepare for Small Volume – Chemical Water Column Monitoring (sv-CWCM) event 21G scheduled for July 14 and 15.
- On July 15, EPA's RPM and CPG's Project Coordinator had a telephone conversation to review the status of Current Conditions sampling and other relevant project topics.
- On July 19, EPA and CPG Representatives met briefly via MS Teams to review and flow conditions for the week of July 19.
- On July 26, EPA and CPG Representatives met briefly via MS Teams to review and flow conditions for the week of July 26.

Correspondence

- On July 8, CPG informed EPA of a minor issue with regards to 2019-2021 PWCM SSC data and suggested that AECOM and CDM coordinate resolution.
- On July 15, CPG delivered the June 2021 RI/FS Progress Report.

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- On July 19, EPA provided comments to CPG on *Lower Passaic River Restoration Project, Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS, Current Conditions Addendum to the Quality Assurance Project Plan – Fish and Crab Tissue Collection for Chemical Analysis, Addendum 8*.
- On July 27, EPA directed CPG to provide a schedule for completing the LPRSA Bioaccumulation Model within 7 days.
- On July 30, CPG provided a written summary of the predicted flow and tide conditions for sv-CWCM for the week of August 2 in lieu of a MS Teams Meeting.
- On July 30, EPA provided approval of the CPG on *Lower Passaic River Restoration Project, Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS, Current Conditions Addendum to the Quality Assurance Project Plan – Fish and Crab Tissue Collection for Chemical Analysis, Addendum 8*.

Work

- On July 2, CPG delivered *Lower Passaic River Restoration Project, Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS, Current Conditions Addendum to the Quality Assurance Project Plan – Fish and Crab Tissue Collection for Chemical Analysis, Addendum 8* for EPA review.
- On July 14 and 15, CPG completed Current Conditions – Surface Water sv-CWCM event 21G.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the bioaccumulation model.
- CPG prepared to mobilize for 2021 Biota Current Conditions – Biota Sampling scheduled for August 2.
- On July 28, CPG addressed EPA's July 19 comments and provided a revision to “*Lower Passaic River Restoration Project, Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS, Current Conditions Addendum to the Quality Assurance Project Plan – Fish and Crab Tissue Collection for Chemical Analysis, Addendum 8*” for EPA's approval.
- On July 28, CPG provided EPA with a copy of the updated HASP for Current Conditions - Biota Sampling.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- A Region 2 EDD with final validated data from 2021 Current Conditions Monitoring was posted to the USEPA SharePoint site. Contents included the Water Column Sampling events 1 & 2 (March/April), plus the update EDD to use the correct CAS_RN for the suspended solids concentration for all of the Current Conditions sampling to-date.
- The preliminary field data from the first two sampling events and the third Physical Water Column event was been posted to the USEPA SharePoint site,

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue calibration of the bioaccumulation model.
- Preparations for conducting sv-CWCM events when conditions permit
- Weekly discussions with EPA on 2021 Current Conditions Surface water sampling
- Preparation and execution of the 2021 Current Conditions in August – Biota sampling event

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(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 may impact and/or delay 2021 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-806-7688.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Robert Law, Ph.D.
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
Dawn Lamparello, CPG Coordinating Counsel
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